

United States Senate

April 17, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

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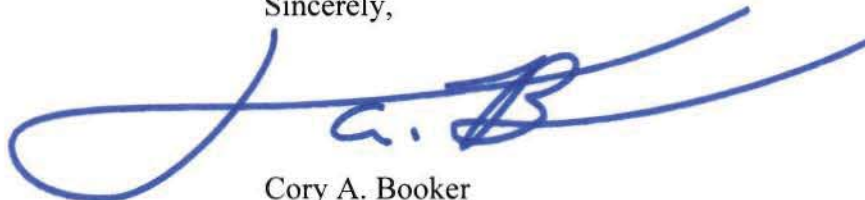
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As you may know, WMGM-TV NBC 40, a southern New Jersey-based local television station, was recently sold to LocusPoint Networks. Press accounts indicate this purchase was made with the intent of auctioning the station's license in the Federal Communications Commission's upcoming spectrum auction. I understand the importance of the auction and the value of freeing up additional spectrum and establishing FirstNet, the interoperable public safety network. However, it is also imperative that the cornerstone values of localism and diversity in the broadcast media marketplace remain intact as the spectrum auction proceeds.

WMGM-TV has served southern New Jersey for over 40 years, providing local news, emergency information, and educational programming. During hurricanes Irene and Sandy, residents relied on news and emergency information provided by this station. Furthermore, the station plays an important role in the local economy by offering reasonable rates for businesses to advertise and keeping visiting tourists informed of regional news and events. This local programming is particularly essential to residents of southern New Jersey where much of the news coverage heavily focuses on Philadelphia.

Small-market television stations like WMGM-TV serve as a critical link between residents and their communities. As the Commission moves forward with the upcoming spectrum auctions, I hope you will work to ensure communities like southern New Jersey continue to receive the local programming they depend on for news and information services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. A. B.', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

April 29, 2014

The Honorable Cory A. Booker
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of local broadcasting and the potential impact of the upcoming Incentive Auction on consumers. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

I understand the value that local TV stations bring to viewers in fulfillment of their responsibility to serve the public interest. I strongly believe that the interests of the American people are served by a vibrant local broadcasting industry and include the continuation of broadcasting's historic role as a principal conveyor of news and entertainment, and especially of its invaluable role as "first informer."

The incentive auction proposals before the full Commission are a balanced approach to benefit 21st century consumers, whether those consumers use television or mobile broadband – or most likely both. Our central objective in designing the incentive auction is to marry the economics of demand with the economics of current spectrum holders, broadcast television stations, and allow market forces to determine the highest and best use of spectrum. The Commission does not know definitively which stations will choose to participate, or which stations ultimately will be selected through the auction, but our goal is to provide the industry with specific information regarding the available options in order for each station to make an informed decision.

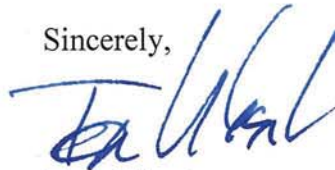
Broadcast stations have the choice whether to participate or not, and will have a range of bid options. These include the options to go off the air, relinquish a UHF channel and share a channel with another broadcast station, or relinquish a UHF channel and accept another channel in the VHF band. While the law clearly demonstrates that Congress contemplated that a successful auction would result in some stations choosing to go off the air, both the channel sharing and UHF to VHF bid options will provide stations with the opportunity to participate in the auction, receive a substantial payment, and continue to provide over-the-air programming to their local communities. For stations that choose not to participate, the Commission is required to make "all reasonable efforts" to preserve their coverage areas and populations served in any

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repacking of broadcast stations to new channels. We will comply with statutory directives regarding the protection of the remaining stations, which will minimize the impact on consumers.

I hope this information is helpful. Your letter will be made part of the record of the proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Tom Wheeler